

Story 1804 (1989 Tape 7

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of Konya Province

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A Practical Joke

The same joker [as the one featured in the previous tale, ATON 1803] once played a trick on another of his neighbors, a man known as Mehmet Ağa.¹ He went to that friend's house during his absence and said to his family, "Mehmet Ağa sends you his greetings. He has been put in jail, and he needs to have his bed brought to the prison."

Of course Mehmet Ağa's family members were greatly upset by this news. Several of them started crying. They gathered together Mehmet Ağa's bed and blankets and took them to the prison. They could not find Mehmet Ağa there because he had never been arrested and taken there. The joker had simply played a trick on all of them.

¹An ağa is usually a rural landholder, often affluent, sometimes powerful. The word ağa, however, also has a more general use, and that is as an honorific. To honor, show respect for, or flatter, one may add Ağa to a man's given name: Mehmet Ağa, Hasan Ağa.

Story 1804

We can see from this that Nasreddin Hoca² was not unique. He was an amusing man, but there have been many others who have done things equally amusing

²Nasreddin Hoca is the most popular Turkish comic figure in the folk tradition. He is not primarily a practical joker.